4. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the given channel is a random access channel transmitted at a frequency within a band of frequencies that is provided for communications with mobile stations.

8. (Amended) A method according to Claim 5, having the further step of:

i) allocating the utilisation of each random access channel time slot for base station synchronisation according to a schedule.

9. (Amended) A method according to Claim 5, having the further step of:

j) using a second one of said at least one channels to silence uplink communications in the random access channel time slots to allow the transmission of synchronisation transmissions from the first base station to other base stations.

11. (Amended) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the random access channel time slot used is always contained in a fixed numbered frame within a plurality of multi-frames in order to synchronise the plurality of base stations over multi-frames.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) A method according to [Claims 1, 2 or 3,] Claim 1, wherein the given channel is a random access channel transmitted at a frequency within a band of frequencies that is provided for communications with mobile stations.

8. (Amended) A method according to [Claims 5, 6 or 7,] Claim 5, having the further step of:

i) allocating the utilisation of each random access channel time slot for base station synchronisation according to a schedule.

9. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 5, 6 or 7,] Claim 5, having the further step of:

j) using a second one of said at least one channels to silence uplink communications in the random access channel time slots to allow the transmission of synchronisation transmissions from the first base station to other base stations.

11. (Amended) A method according to [any ofClaims 4 to 10,] Claim 4, wherein the random access channel time slot used is always contained in a fixed numbered frame within a plurality of multi-frames in order to synchronise the plurality of base stations over multi-frames.